

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BONN 10595

EXDIS

MOSCOW ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR WARNKE'S PARTY

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF FOR ASD/ISA

GENEVA FOR USDEL SALT II

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJECT: CRUISE MISSILE DISCUSSIONS IN NATO - NEXT
STEPS

REFS: (A) BONN 10090; (B) USNATO 05863

1. WE FULLY SUPPORT USNATO'S CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS EXPRESSED IN REFTEL B.

2. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PICK UP EXPRESSIONS OF GERMAN CONCERN ABOUT LIMITATIONS ON CRUISE MISSILES:

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--GENERAL BRANDT OF THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY MENTIONED THEM TO THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR SEVERAL DAYS AGO, STATING THAT THERE WERE TWO THINGS THAT CONCERNED THE GERMANS. FIRST, THAT THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS COULD SLIDE OVER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT FBS IF THE CRUISE MISSILE LIMITATIONS BECAME TOO SEVERE; SECOND, THAT THE EUROPEANS MIGHT WELL NEED A CRUISE MISSILE SYSTEM

IN THE FUTURE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A COUNTER THREAT TO THE SS-20 (THOUGH BRANDT OBSERVED, OF COURSE, THAT THE CRUISE MISSILES NEED NOT AND PERHAPS COULD NOT NECESSARILY BE TARGETTED SPECIFICALLY AGAINST THE SS-20'S).

--YESTERDAY, A CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH THE PRESIDENT DURING HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

3. WE HAVE NOT HEARD HERE THE KINDS OF STATEMENTS REPORTED IN REF B REGARDING POSSIBLE EUROPEAN CRUISE MISSILE DEVELOPMENT, BUT HAVE ONLY PICKED UP SOME VERY INDIRECT SUGGESTIONS OF THAT SORT. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US, FROM THESE SUGGESTIONS, WHETHER THE FRG IS CONCERNED THAT THE NON-TRANSFER AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION ASPECTS OF A SALT AGREEMENT MIGHT MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE US TO ASSIST DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN CRUISE MISSILE, OR WHETHER THE FRG IS BEGINNING TO THINK IN TERMS OF AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN CRUISE MISSILE DEVELOPMENT. ON THE LATTER, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THE GERMANS WOULD BE RELUCTANT AND ILL-PLACED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE BUT MIGHT WELL BE ASKED TO BECOME INVOLVED. EACH CASE COULD HAVE DIFFERENT TYPES OF REPERCUSSIONS.

4. BECAUSE OF THAT, WE WOULD HOPE THAT WASHINGTON
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COULD MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT NOT ONLY TO CONTINUE THE CONSULTATIONS IN NATO BUT PERHAPS (AS REF B SUGGESTS) ALSO PLAN FOR SOME DISCUSSIONS HERE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE GERMANS WANT TO JEOPARDIZE A SALT AGREEMENT AND WE THINK THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT LATER SUDDEN CONFRONTATIONS ON THIS IS TO AVOID SURPRISES.
STOESSEL

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